

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 EUR-25 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-11

RSC-01 FEA-02 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00

AEC-11 SCI-06 STR-08 OIC-04 CEA-02 CIEP-02 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 EPA-04 CEQ-02 DOTE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015406

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, UN, FR

SUBJ: ENERGY: GUIDANCE ON FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR
UN-SPONSORED CONFERENCE

1. ON JAN. 21 FRENCH PROPOSED TO SYG THAT WORLD ENERGY
CONFERENCE BE CALLED UNDER UN AUSPICES. THE PROPOSAL HAS
BEEN KEPT PURPOSEFULLY FLEXIBLE, AND FRENCH APPARENTLY ARE
THINKING OF CONVOCAION OF CONFERENCE THROUGH ECOSOC. SYG
ON JAN. 22 REQUESTED CURRENT ECOSOC PRESIDENT, WHO IS
FINNISH PERM REP TO UN, TO CONSULT WITH ECOSOC MEMBERS RE
FRENCH PROPOSAL, AND ACCORDINGLY USUN RECEIVING NUMEROUS
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REQUESTS FOR OUR VIEWS.

2. FYI USG IS NOT HAPPY ABOUT FRENCH WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE PROPOSAL. WE STRONGLY PREFER OUR STAGE-BY-STAGE PROPOSAL FOR DEALING WITH WORLD ENERGY PROBLEMS, STARTING WITH FEB 11 CONFERENCE OF PRINCIPAL CONSUMERS (75 PERCENT OF WORLD CONSUMPTION) AND MOVING FORWARD IN ORDERLY FASHION AS WE HAVE PROPOSED (STATE 4158). DESPITE SUPERFICIAL APPEAL OF CONFERENCE IN WHICH ALL CONSUMERS AS WELL AS PRODUCERS WOULD BE REPRESENTED, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT UN WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE WOULD SERIOUSLY CONFUSE THE ISSUE BY INTRODUCTION OF EXTRANEIOUS ISSUES, LDC BLOC VOTING, AND MISCHIEVOUS ACTIONS BY COMMUNISTS AND PERHAPS OTHERS. FURTHER, THERE ARE SIGNS THAT ARAB PRODUCERS WITH WHOM WE MAY LATER DEAL DO NOT FAVOR APPROACH THROUGH UN AT THIS TIME. END FYI.

3. THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE MAY HAVE POTENTIAL ATTRACTION TO SOME LDCS. WHILE WE DO NOT COMPLETELY RULE OUT POSSIBLE UN INVOLVEMENT IN SOME ASPECTS OF THE ENERGY QUESTION IN THE FUTURE, ANY CALL FOR A UN SPONSORED MEETING NOW WOULD CONFUSE THE PRESENT SITUATION AND POSSIBLY HINDER EFFECTIVE ACTION AT THIS TIME. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT SEVERAL UN ORGANS ALREADY SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS ENERGY QUESTION -- ECAFE, ECLA, ECA, UNCTAD). WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR HOSTILE TO THESE MEETINGS, WE DO NOT SEE THAT MUCH WILL COME FROM THEM PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE EFFORTS WE NOW FORESEE. WE RECOGNIZE THE ENERGY PROBLEM IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO ALL CONSUMING COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE LDC'S, AND WE ARE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THEIR VITAL INTERESTS IN FORMULATING OUR POSITIONS FOR THE "BUILDING BLOCK" APPROACH. THEREFORE, OUR BEST APPROACH WOULD BE: (A) WHILE NOT SUPPORTING THE CALLING NOW OF A UN WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE, (B) LEAVE OPEN POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE UN INVOLVEMENT IN SOME ASPECTS OF ENERGY.

4. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD TAKE LINE, THAT (A) US BELIEVES MOST LOGICAL AND ORDERLY WAY TO PROCEED ON ENERGY CONSULTATIONS AT THIS STAGE IS TO HOLD FEB 11 MEETING; (B) IN THIS CONTEXT YOU MAY FORMALLY INDICATE CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT VIEWS OF NON-PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES IN THE FEBRUARY AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AND THAT WE ARE WORKING ON THIS ASPECT; (C) RE DUTCH OR OTHER PROPOSALS FOR SPECIAL ECOSOC CONFERENCE, IN OUR VIEW RESULTS OF FEB 11 CONFERENCE AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS SHOULD BE AWAITED BEFORE DECIDING ON SPECIAL SESSION OF ECOSOC. KISSINGER

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